

though the project crosses an international border. This is unprecedented.

Second, H.R. 3 deems that environmental impact statements issued to date would be considered sufficient to satisfy all requirements of the NEPA and the Endangered Species Act.

As a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I have a problem with “deeming” something done that has not been done in fact.

Third, the bill vests exclusive jurisdiction regarding legal disputes over the pipeline or the constitutionality of this bill would be granted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and requires claims regarding the pipeline to be brought within 60 days of the action that gives rise to the claim.

It is unduly burdensome to require aggrieved parties to bear the considerable expense and hardship of traveling from their homes in North or South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, or Texas to Washington, DC to vindicate their legal rights.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe the bill before could have been improved had amendments been made in order.

For example, two proposed amendments, one from a Democrats and one Republican, making oil sands petroleum eligible to pay an excise tax into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and another splitting revenue generated by the pipeline’s construction between DOE’s energy

efficiency and renewable energy research and deficit reduction, were not made-in-order.

Had the bill been subject to amendment and the amendments offered in the Rules Committee been made in order and approved, the bill before us would be improved markedly.

And Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of this body, you are well-aware that when amendments are made-in-order, the rank-and-file can at least feel that they had a say in the process but when a Closed Rule is put forth—it does not stoke optimism about the legislative process for the 114th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 18 on Monday, January 12th, 2015, my son underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis. For that reason, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, in time for floor votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea.”

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a sys-

tem for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 20

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 114th Congress.

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